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ORTH CENTRAL FOREST
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FOREST AREA IN WISCONSIN, 1983

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.BSTRACT.--In 1983 Wisconsin's forests covered 5.3 million acres, an increase of 2.7 percent from the 4.9 million acres reported in 1968.

:EY WORDS: Statistics, commercial forest land.

Forests are a large and important resource in Wisonsin. Four and one-half acres out of every 10 in the tate are forested, for a total of 15.3 million acres. ighty percent of Wisconsin's forest land is in the orthern and central areas of the State (table 1). Forsts grow on 70 percent of the land area in the northrn part of the State. Menominee County in the Northeast Inventory Unit is 93 percent forested (fig.). Forests in northern Wisconsin not only provide mployment in the wood products industry, but are lso an essential ingredient in the tourist and recreation industry.

In the urban and agricultural southern part of the State, forests occur in smaller and more scattered units than in the northern part. In the Southeast Inventory Unit, forests cover only 12 percent of the land area. Nevertheless, these forests contain high-value hardwood species, such as white and northern red oaks.

The forest land base in Wisconsin covers 44 percent of the State's land area. Since the third Wisconsin Inventory in 1968, forest area has increased by more than 400 thousand acres, largely because nonforest wooded pasture (primarily used for grazing) was reverted to forest land and additional forest plantation acreages.

Forest land can be subdivided into--commercial forest land and noncommercial forest land (reserved forest land and unproductive forest land):

Land class	Survey year 1968	1983	Change since 1968
	- - - Thousand acres - - -		
Forest			
Commercial	14,537	14,759	+ 222
Noncommercial			
Unproductive	374	331	– 43
Reserved	34	261	+ 227
Total forest	14,945	15,351	+ 406
Nonforest	19,913	19,482	– 431
Total land	34,858[1]	34,833[2]	– 25

Commercial forest land (land suitable and available for growing industrial timber products) is the largest forest land class, accounting for 14.8 million acres, or 96 percent of the forest land area. The 14.8 million acres reported in 1983 is 222 thousand acres more than reported in 1968. This increase in area translates to a rate of change of about 15 thousand acres annually.

The commercial forest land base in the Central and especially the Southwest Inventory Units of Wisconsin increased, but that in the Southeast Unit remained relatively constant. Commercial forest land decreased in the Northeast and Northwest Inventory Units.

Inventory Unit	Commercial forest land 1968	1983	Change since 1968
	- - -Thousand acres - -		
Northeast	4,062	3,828	– 234
Northwest	5,246	5,151	– 95
Central	2,832	2,951	+ 119
Southwest	1,493	1,920	+ 427
Southeast	904	909	+ 5
	14,537	14,759	+ 222

[1]*U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 1960.*
[2]*U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 1980.*

Table 1.--Area of land and forest land by county, Wisconsin, 1983

County	All land[1/]	Forest land[2/]			Commercial forest as a percent of land area	All forest as a percent of land area
		All forest	Noncommercial[3/]	Commercial[4/]		
NORTHEAST UNIT						
Florence	310.8	254.2	10.2	244.0	79	82
Forest	647.1	543.9	51.2	492.7	76	84
Langlade	559.0	391.7	17.2	374.5	67	70
Lincoln	567.1	411.2	17.4	393.8	69	73
Menominee	229.7	213.1	--	213.1	93	93
Marinette	893.1	661.0	21.3	639.7	72	74
Oconto	641.4	357.4	10.3	347.1	54	56
Oneida	723.2	531.1	34.0	497.1	69	73
Shawano	574.0	259.2	4.0	255.2	45	45
Vilas	554.8	398.5	27.2	371.3	67	72
Total	5,700.2	4,021.3	192.8	3,828.5	67	71
NORTHWEST UNIT						
Ashland	670.9	569.1	65.3	503.8	75	85
Barron	553.4	165.7	7.0	158.7	29	30
Bayfield	935.8	780.1	39.6	740.5	79	83
Burnett	523.3	335.9	18.8	317.1	61	64
Douglas	835.5	640.3	12.4	627.9	75	77
Iron	481.0	400.1	22.2	377.9	79	83
Polk	588.4	230.0	9.2	220.8	38	39
Price	803.8	598.4	47.6	550.8	69	74
Rusk	584.4	373.2	10.1	363.1	62	64
Sawyer	803.3	638.9	31.2	607.7	76	80
Taylor	624.2	368.0	13.6	354.4	57	59
Washburn	521.4	331.5	3.4	328.1	63	64
Total	7,925.4	5,431.2	280.4	5,150.8	65	69
CENTRAL UNIT						
Adams	414.7	236.7	2.4	234.3	57	57
Chippewa	650.9	232.4	6.7	225.7	35	36
Clark	779.6	316.1	--	316.1	41	41
Eau Claire	408.3	156.3	1.8	154.5	38	38
Jackson	638.6	378.9	7.5	371.4	58	59
Juneau	495.5	256.0	3.9	252.1	51	52
Marathon	997.9	365.4	6.9	358.5	36	37
Marquette	290.9	94.3	--	94.3	32	32
Monroe	578.3	247.3	2.3	245.0	42	43
Portage	518.5	174.3	--	174.3	34	34
Waupaca	482.8	181.1	8.5	172.6	36	38
Waushara	401.7	157.2	11.6	145.6	36	39
Wood	512.5	206.5	--	206.5	40	40
Total	7,170.2	3,002.5	51.6	2,950.9	41	42

(Table 1 continued on next page)

[1/] 1980 Bureau of the Census estimates.

[2/] Land at least 16.7 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, or formerly having such tree cover; excludes land currently developed for nonforest use such as urban or heavily settled residential or resort areas, city parks, orchards, improved roads, or improved pasture land. The minimum forest area classified was 1 acre. Classified as forest were roadside, streamside, and shelterbelt strips of timber with a crown width of at least 120 feet and unimproved roads and trails, streams, and clearings in forested areas if less than 120 feet wide.

[3/] Unproductive forest land incapable of yielding crops of industrial wood because of adverse site conditions, and productive public forest land withdrawn from commercial timber production through statute or administrative regulation.

[4/] Forest land producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood and not withdrawn from timber utilization by statute or administrative regulation.

(Table 1 continued)

County	All land[1]	Forest land[2]			Commercial forest as a percent of land area	All forest as a percent of land area
		All forest	Noncommercial[3]	Commercial[4]		
SOUTHWEST UNIT						
Buffalo	447.6	193.4	5.5	187.9	42	43
Crawford	362.1	168.8	1.0	167.8	46	47
Dunn	546.2	171.1	1.1	170.0	31	31
Grant	732.2	186.4	1.9	184.5	25	26
Iowa	486.5	140.7	4.7	136.0	28	29
La Crosse	292.6	121.6	--	121.6	42	42
Lafayette	405.9	38.2	0.6	37.6	9	9
Pepin	147.8	53.9	0.5	53.4	36	37
Pierce	369.0	102.1	1.5	100.6	27	28
Richland	374.1	159.4	0.7	158.7	42	43
St.Croix	462.5	77.7	4.8	72.9	16	17
Sauk	536.2	192.0	10.3	181.7	34	36
Tempealeau	470.9	151.1	4.1	147.0	31	32
Vernon	516.9	202.4	2.1	200.3	39	39
Total	6,150.5	1,958.8	38.8	1,920.0	31	32
SOUTHEAST UNIT						
Brown	335.5	49.1	1.7	47.4	14	15
Calumet	208.9	25.1	0.4	24.7	12	12
Columbia	493.5	84.4	0.2	84.2	17	17
Dane	770.9	91.1	0.9	90.2	12	12
Dodge	567.9	27.8	0.2	27.6	5	5
Door	314.5	120.0	13.7	106.3	34	38
Fond du Lac	463.8	35.1	1.2	33.9	7	8
Green	373.3	30.9	--	30.9	8	8
Green Lake	228.2	21.0	--	21.0	9	9
Jefferson	359.6	29.3	0.3	29.0	8	8
Kenosha	174.5	11.7	0.9	10.8	6	7
Kewaunee	219.5	36.8	--	36.8	17	17
Manitowoc	380.1	57.4	0.9	56.5	15	15
Milwaukee	154.6	--	--	--	--	--
Outagamie	411.0	70.7	--	70.7	17	17
Ozaukee	150.3	16.3	--	16.3	11	11
Racine	214.1	17.7	0.8	16.9	8	8
Rock	463.0	28.1	1.2	26.9	6	6
Sheboygan	329.8	52.6	1.1	51.5	16	16
Walworth	355.6	35.8	0.2	35.6	10	10
Washington	275.5	45.8	0.1	45.7	17	17
Waukesha	354.8	36.6	4.5	32.1	9	10
Winnebago	287.6	14.2	--	14.2	5	5
Total	7,886.5	937.5	28.3	909.2	12	12
All counties	34,832.8	15,351.3	591.9	14,759.4	42	44

[1] 1980 Bureau of the Census estimates.

[2] Land at least 16.7 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, or formerly having such tree cover; excludes land currently developed for nonforest use such as urban or heavily settled residential or resort areas, city parks, orchards, improved roads, or improved pasture land. The minimum forest area classified was 1 acre. Classified as forest were roadside, streamside, and shelterbelt strips of timber with a crown width of at least 120 feet and unimproved roads and trails, streams, and clearings in forested areas if less than 120 feet wide.

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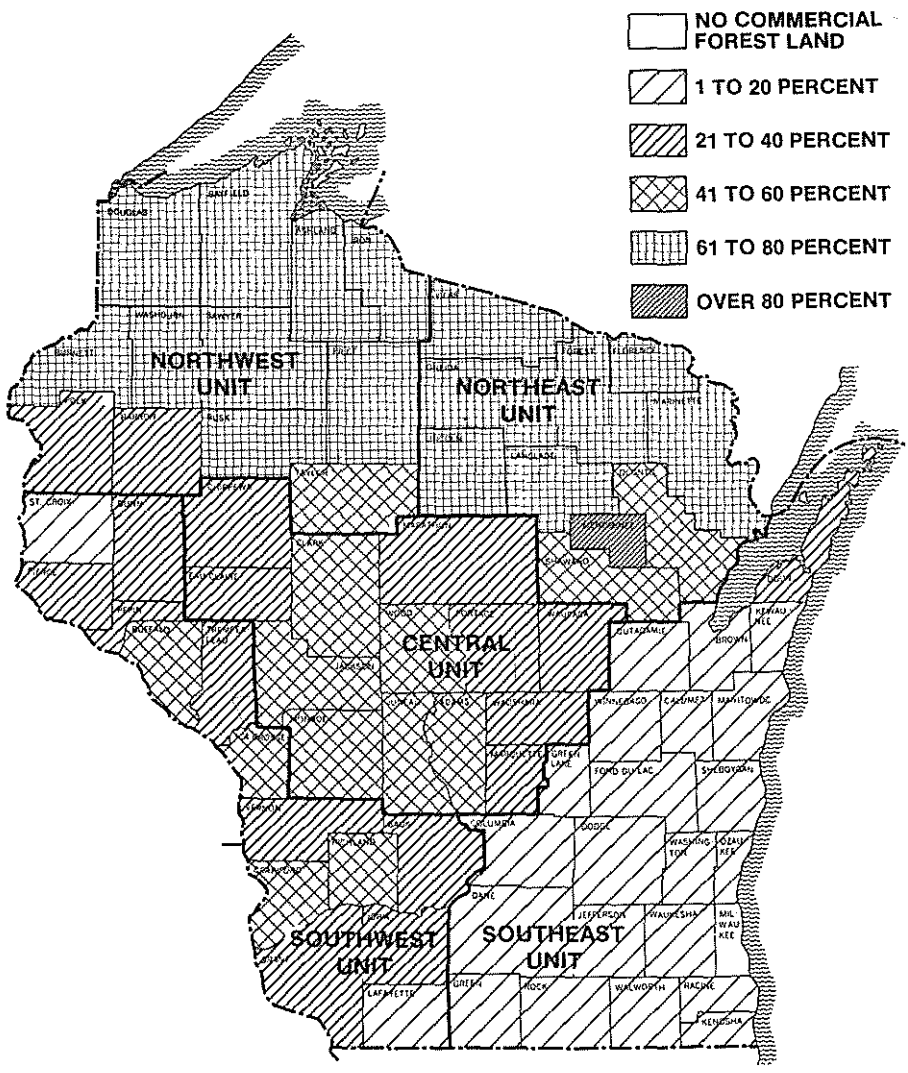

Figure 1.--*Commercial forest area as a percent of land area by county, Wisconsin, 1983.*

Only 4 percent or 592 thousand acres of Wisconsin's forests are classified as noncommercial. Of these, 261 thousand acres are forests reserved for uses other than timber production, such as parks and other reserved recreation areas. This reserved forest land class increased from 34 thousand to 261 thousand acres between inventories. The increase resulted from the transfer of commercial forest and unproductive forest land to new parks, wilderness areas, national lakeshore areas, wild and scenic riverway areas, and Natural and Scientific Areas. The other class of noncommercial forest--unproductive (forest land too poor to grow timber products suitable for industrial use)--declined by more than 11 percent between 1968 and 1983, from 374 thousand to 331 thousand acres.

The sampling error for the 14.8 million acres of commercial forest area for this inventory was ± 0.22 percent.

This forest inventory was conducted by the North Central Forest Experiment Station in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Because of intensified field sampling, more accurate inventory information was obtained during the 1983 inventory than otherwise would have been feasible. This intensified sampling was made possible by additional funding and field personnel provided by the Wisconsin State Legislature through the Department of Natural Resources.